

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carew Kincora** Ref: **2116**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **196**
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	24
The Built Environment	50	0	28
Landscaping	50	0	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	10
Litter Control	50	0	30
Tidiness	30	0	18
Waste Minimisation	20	0	4
Residential Areas	40	0	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	30
General Impression	10	0	5
TOTAL MARK	400	0	196

Overall Development Approach:

Carew Kincora Estate Southill is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition and it is hoped that participation will help to focus community support in protecting your environment. Many thanks for your entry form and hand drawn map. You have made a great start with a total of 14 on your committee including volunteers and representatives from various official agencies. You also have links with a range of local groups including local businesses and youth groups. Building a broad support base is essential and will be an ongoing feature of your activities. Ensure that the whole community knows that participation in projects and at decision-making level is open to all and that new faces are welcome. Quarterly newsletters do not seem all that frequent while newsletters can be like so much junk mail. Door-to-door, face-to-face contact is invaluable.

Meanwhile you can be continually advertising your work through wearing high viz vests with the Tidy Towns logo across the back or putting small labels on new works or landscaped areas. Try to run numerous small projects in which people can get involved. This will give you quick wins and will hopefully then attract more support.

You are encourage to prepare a three-year plan as this would give you a longer term timeframe in which to complete actions. Large projects can be broken down into manageable tasks while actions should be distributed across all the tidy towns contest headings. The tidy towns Handbook is full of useful hints and tips and you are encouraged to refer to this in planning your activities.

The Built Environment:

You are commended for working with local agencies in addressing the problem of derelict buildings/sites. The community office is looking while the garden next door is beautifully maintained.

Southill house is a fantastic amenity for the community. The entrance is somewhat fortified and creates an untidy impression with loose wire fencing, barbed wire and a potholed road. The grounds are superb, creating a magical oasis, and well done to all those who tend the gardens. The house itself is a very nice architectural feature for the area but its exterior is badly in need of a coat of paint.

The Limerick enterprise development Park creates an attractive commercial centre for the area. It was very tidy on adjudication day and the range and quality of landscaping features are excellent. The UPC facade creates an interesting attraction. The Family Tree creche meanwhile is a very well designed building that blends in with the surrounding greenery to good effect. The car park is well surfaced throughout although a number of trees in the area between Aldi and the off-licence are broken or dead.

Landscaping:

Planting trees is a very effective way of landscaping large areas. It can also hit a number of headings in this contest e.g. tidiness if trees are used to screen an ugly wall, or wildlife if native species are planted. Don't hold back! Young 'whips' can be acquired in large numbers at low cost from local nurseries. You can plant lots of them that would be low maintenance and provide impact for years to come.

The open green space near the Maldron hotel is a fine meadow but uncut grass will hamper budding footballers. How about painting the goalposts here to create an attractive playing pitch? The green area in front of Swallow drive is very well-kept.

New trees on the green near Donoghmore Crescent work very well here and the grass is neatly trimmed. The colourful array of snapdragons on the corner of Collins Avenue was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

When planting trees be sure to use native species such as rowan, birch, cherry and whitethorn. These provide a variety of colour and shades as well as being good for birds. Maple and lime tend to be uniformly dark and do not produce berries or flowers. Creating dense areas of growth e.g. by planting blackthorn shrubs in between trees will eventually provide cover for nesting birds.

If creating a meadow affect allow grass to grow for the summer months. Cut in autumn and remove and compost the cuttings. Planting wildflowers is frequently unsuccessful but work with the landscaping department of Limerick city council to plant perennial shrubs for bees or butterflies if this effect is desired.

Litter Control:

Is there a rota of voluntary litter picks? Litter is a significant eyesore that masks all other features. It is the most obvious sign of neglect, or care, in a community. Do not confuse this category with waste minimisation which deals with recycling. Do you take part in the national spring clean, run by An Taisce, in April? This is a great event for getting people out and cleaning up an area. How do your local children get involved? They can help by participating in cleanups or doing school art competitions. The area around the recycling bins was spotless, well done. Generally elsewhere litter control was moderate with a low level of litter throughout. Perhaps this could be addressed through more frequent patrols.

Tidiness:

Do try to be clear as to whether projects have been completed or are planned for the future. Your work to tackle lighting is acknowledged. You plan to create wall art is excellent, do try to visit the bridge in Annacotty to see what was achieved there.

Graffiti is an issue on the wall at the end of Swallow drive. It is also noticeable on the recycling bins. Generally however the area is very tidy, kerbs are mostly free of weeds and overhead wires do not clutter the skyline. Existing signage is mostly in good order but some need to be cleaned e.g. the 'ramps' sign on Syngé Drive.

Waste Minimisation:

It is excellent that you are tackling bonfires and the burning of waste. As you point out it damages green areas and creates a significant level of toxic air pollution. In this period of waste minimisation are there alternatives to hiring an expensive skip? Scrap metal is worth money and could be sold to raise funds for your group. Use freetradeireland.ie to find new homes for items such as furniture that are in working order. Gather unused

paint to paint a communal wall and use your municipal recycling facilities for recycling white goods and plastic. Waste wood can be turned into bird boxes, or raised planting beds. Do you have a brown bin collection? If not you could hold a home composting workshop. See the Tidy Towns Handbook for additional ideas.

Residential Areas:

Many homes in this estate are well-kept and boundary walls maintained. Do you reach out to those who are unable to maintain their areas? A number of very attractive gardens were admired on adjudication day and a stretch of greenery and roses along Synge Drive was particularly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your plans to enhance the entrance to your estate are noted. Bilingual street nameplates were admired and these are worthy of conservation. Surfacing on main roads is in good order although grass verges needs to be trimmed e.g. along Collins Avenue.

General Impression:

We are delighted that this part of Southhill has entered the tidy towns contest and we hope you will return in 2013 with a range of voluntary-led projects. You have made a great start and are wished every success in the future. Best of luck!